

FEDERACION CAMPESINA DE VENEZUELA

Comite Ejecutivo Nacional

Secretaria General

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Telefonos: 61.33.23 - 61.33.24

Caracas, Venezuela

Caracas: January 16, 1960

Brother Norman Smith  
California Director, AWOC  
Stockton, California

My esteemed Brother:

I hope this finds you, together with the staff who work with you in the arduous labor of organizing agricultural workers, well.

Please accept my regrets in being unable to return to visit the AWOC in Stockton. On my return to San Francisco after meeting with you, I found an urgent request that I return immediately to Caracas.

Even so, I take this opportunity to convey my regards to all of you on the AWOC staff and to the rank and file my congratulations.

It is very difficult to organize unions. But as always, victory is attained by perseverance. Agricultural workers in California's San Joaquin Valley exist under living and working conditions which cannot be considered human. These same conditions, however, will strengthen vigorous organizing of agricultural workers in the fight to establish a union and better living conditions. There are always many difficulties, but undoubtedly the union's fight will secure the fundamental demands which will herald the social and economic emancipation of agricultural workers. I came away from your beautiful countryside with a profound impression. At the same time that I made many new friends, acquired new experiences, my thinking was enriched and my ideology, which is the ideology of agricultural workers, reaffirmed. You have before you a tremendous job, but keen minded men such as yourselves, thinking into the future, having absolute sincerity, and with a concept of honesty as the fundamental principle of your code of conduct, will attain the objectives for which you are fighting so energetically.

The big growers are usually men of reactionary and anti-union mentality. However, when decisive and courageous action is taken, as you are taking, there are no reactionary forces, however strong they may be, which can obstruct the union, or smash the unions already organized. I am sure that day by day the agricultural workers of California will acquire a deeper sense of unionism. And this will be the conclusion triumph.

For you and your staff, for all the agricultural workers, a fraternal embrace from a devoted brother.

Signed/ Pedro Torres, Secretary General  
Federation of Landworkers,  
Venezuela